

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Doc. XVIII

N. 28

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FINAL DOCUMENT UNDER RULE 127 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON:

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards data and interoperability governance, suspensions of payments annual performance clearance and controls and penalties (COM(2025)236 final)

Approved by the Committee on Agriculture on July 23, 2025

FINAL DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee on Agriculture,

Having examined, pursuant to Rule 127, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards data and interoperability governance, suspensions of payments annual performance clearance and controls and penalties (COM(2025)236 final);

Noting the report transmitted by the Government pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 5, of Law No. 234 of December 24, 2012;

Taking into account the information and opinions that emerged during the hearings held as part of consideration of the proposal;

Noting that the failure to produce the impact assessment, moreover found in relation to several legislative proposals submitted by the European Commission at the start of the new institutional cycle 2024-2029, prevents national parliaments and stakeholders from making a full weighing of the proposed measures and possible alternative regulatory options;

WHEREAS:

the proposal responds in part to protests, including recent ones, from farmers, who are faced with high costs due to the climate transition, unfair global competition, rising energy costs and an aging population; these factors are compounded by the complexity of administrative burdens, which contributes to an already critical operating condition for farmers;

being agreeable to the overall objective of reducing administrative burdens for farmers and national administrations in order to promote the competitiveness of the European agricultural sector and introduce more flexibility for member states in the management of strategic plans,

ultimately, the proposal appears unambitious, not in line with the expectations of agricultural enterprises and reductive with respect to the objectives set out in the Communication " A Vision for Agriculture and Food. Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future

generations," which instead envisions a marked change of pace, including with respect to the Green Deal.

Considering that:

the proposal, by amending Article 13 of the Regulation on National Strategic Plans, recognizes as complying with certain Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) standards, which are part of the CAP conditionality system, the production of farmers whose entire farm is certified under the Organic Production Regulation; where, on the contrary, a farm has a number of organic production units but is not fully certified as an organic farm, it will not automatically be considered GAEC-compliant for the organic production units either; it would be appropriate to expand the scope of this change by considering mixed farms, where some production units are certified under the Organic Production Regulation, as GAEC-compliant;

considering also that:

The proposal aims to change the support arrangements for farmers affected by extreme weather events by introducing two new forms of complementary payments, one under direct payments and the other under rural development, governed by Articles 41a and 78a introduced by the proposal in Regulation (EU) 2021/2115; however, in the absence of new resources, the funds allocated to these aids and interventions would reduce the availability for each member state of other forms of rural development interventions and direct payments;

the proposal also amends Article 16 of the Regulation on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP to exclude the use of the agricultural reserve to compensate farmers affected by natural disasters, adverse climatic events or catastrophic events; this revision of the mechanisms for the operation of the agricultural reserve, on the one hand, does not in itself constitute regulatory simplification, which the proposal also seeks, and on the other hand, when considered in light of the previous amendment on new forms of complementary payments, it would shift the financial needs for support to farmers affected by extreme weather events from a European fund to the resources allocated to direct payments and rural development interventions;

held that:

the proposed amendment to Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 to retain up to 3 % of the direct payments to support the farmers' contribution to a risk management tool and apply it only to farmers for whom a risk management tool exists in a given year and not, as is currently the case, to all farmers receiving direct payments, is likely to adversely affect actions taken by Member States under the current rules; Italy has in fact applied the current rules by establishing the Agricat Fund and should be able to continue to operate under the initial approach, so the proposed rule should be optional in nature;

considering also that:

the desire to simplify the procedures for amending CAP strategic plans for Member States by establishing the need for an approval by the European Commission only for strategic amendments is appreciable; however, this intervention does not represent a real simplification, given the breadth of amendments considered strategic under Article 119 of the Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans; in order to lighten the procedure for state administrations, it would be appropriate to broaden the amendments of a non-strategic nature and provide for the approval by the European Commission only for the essential elements of the plans;

considering that:

the proposal introduces Article 13a the Regulation on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP by requiring Member States to designate an authority responsible for adopting or coordinating actions aimed at achieving and maintaining interoperability among information systems; although data interoperability is a shareable goal, the introduction of an authority responsible for the governance of data risks creating an administrative burden for national authorities, thus running counter to the simplification objective pursued by the proposal;

observing that:

the proposal, despite introducing some positive elements to reduce the administrative burdens on farmers and administrations, nevertheless contains proposals having greater impact on public agencies (such as simplifications in the area of controls) and for the Managing Authority

(streamlining the system for submitting amendments to the CAP National Strategic Plan (NSP), which, for farms – in particular regarding the change to the system of conditionality – appears to be of little relevance).

Therefore, it would be appropriate to introduce additional changes, aimed in particular at:

- Ensuring better pursuit of CO₂ emission reduction and plastic reduction targets, particularly by supporting investments in environmentally friendly packaging beyond the field of research and experimental production;
- Allowing support for investment aimed at saving energy or reducing carbon dioxide consumption and carrying out innovative research and development activities also to POs marketing processed products and not only to POs whose activities involve products in fresh form;
- Improving support for potato producer organizations through the implementation of an operational programme; indeed, Italy's National Strategic Plan promoted aggregation into Producer Organizations for the potato sector; given the increasing number of such POs, it would be appropriate to implement an Operational Programme within the framework of the current CAP, which, however, could not have the minimum duration of three years required under Article 50, paragraph 2, of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation; therefore, to enable support for potato POs, it would be necessary to be able to implement a two-year operational programme;
- Simplifying the objectives that Member States must achieve for each operational programme; in fact, Article 50, paragraph 7, of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation requires certain standards to be met for each operational programme, which may be particularly onerous for operators to achieve: it would therefore be appropriate to consider some of these requirements as alternative rather than cumulative;
- Allowing the financing of the operating fund of Associations of Producer Organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector also through contributions from the AOP itself; this amendment would align the provision on the financing of the operating fund of fruit and vegetable AOPs with the provision on the financing of the operating fund of POs, for which the possibility of financing through contributions from the organization itself is already provided;

- Increasing the EU's financial support for the fruit and vegetable sector in the area of research and development in sustainable production methods, resistance to pests and animal diseases, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

also noting that:

flexibility in the management of rural development funds should be increased in order to avoid the automatic decommitment of these funds; therefore, in order to allow the use of all the resources made available for rural development interventions of a CAP strategic plan, it would be appropriate to extend the rule from N+2 to N+3, authorizing the expenditure of resources by the end of the third year following the year in which the budget commitment was made.

Noting the need for the timely transmission of this final document to the European Commission, as part of the so-called political dialogue, as well as to the European Parliament and the Council;

expresses a

FAVOURABLE ASSESSMENT

with the following qualifications:

- a) consider amending Article 13 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation to include compliance with the GAEC standards indicated by the proposal also for organic production units and not only for the entire farm;
- b) consider eliminating the provisions regarding complementary crisis aid introduced in Articles 41a and 78a of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and all related provisions;
- c) consider removing the amendment to Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 aimed at excluding the use of the agricultural reserve for support to farmers affected by extreme weather events;
- d) consider amending Article 19 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation to provide an option for Member States and not an obligation;
- e) consider rewording Article 119 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 in order to reduce the parts of strategic plans whose amendment requires the approval of the European Commission;
- f) consider eliminating the introduction of a state authority responsible for the governance referred to in Article 13a of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116;

g) consider supporting the amendment, in the Council and during interinstitutional negotiations, of the following provisions of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation:

I. Article 47, paragraph 1, letter a), in order to delete the phrase "only in the field of research and experimental production," so as not to limit investment support in ecological packaging to the field of research and experimental production only;

II. Article 49 to remove the restriction whereby the objectives in Article 46, other than letters g), h), i) and k), can only relate to products in fresh form;

III. Article 50, paragraph 2, in order to reduce the minimum duration of Operational Programmes to two years, so as to allow for the activation of an Operational Programme for newly-established Potato Producer Organizations;

IV. Article 50, paragraph 7, in order to consider as alternatives the conditions whereby each operational programme must allocate at least 15 percent of the planned expenditure for actions related to the objectives in Article 46, letters e) and f), and the condition whereby the operational programme must include at least three actions related to the objectives in Article 46, letters e) and f);

V. Article 51, paragraph 1, letter a), so as to introduce the possibility of financing the operating fund of Associations of Producer Organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector through contributions from the AOP, as currently provided for Producer Organizations;

VI. Article 52, paragraph 4, in order to remove the conditions stipulated therein, so as to increase the funding of Operational Programmes for interventions aimed at achieving the objective of Article 46, letter d), to 80% of the actual expenditure incurred and no longer 50%;

h) consider supporting, in the Council and during future interinstitutional negotiations, the extension of the N+2 rule to N+3 for expenditures related to rural development interventions in CAP strategic plans.